

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Fig. 5 has been amended by extending the lead lines of numerals 12, 13 and 14 and removing the arrowhead from numeral 14. The drawing now reflects the fact that:

- the frame 11 includes the main frame 12 and the chassis 13, and
- the chassis 13 includes the case portion 14 and the cover portion 15.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the objection to Fig. 5 has been overcome.

Claim 1 has been replaced by new claim 11 and a new independent claim 12 has been added.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention comprises a frame 11 fixed to the inside of an outer panel 31 of a vehicle door. The frame 11 includes an element having first and second portions 12, 14. The first portion 12 constitutes a main frame which is affixed to the door. The second portion 14, integral with the first portion 12, constitutes part of a chassis 13 that forms an inner space. A grip 20 is provided on the frame 11 and includes an electrical component, such as an antenna 54. An electrical circuit 52 is electrically connected to the electrical component (e.g., via a harness 16) and is mounted in the inner space, wherein the circuit 52 is positioned between the element 12, 14 and the door's outer panel 31.

New claim 11 recites the combination of features described above and distinguishes over the structure disclosed in *Morrcarini et al.*

The handle device of *Morrcarini et al.* includes a main frame 4, a grip 5 having an electrical component 6, and a circuit 23 electrically connected to the electrical component (by way of a conductive strip 19). However, the circuit 23 is inserted in a cavity formed in a side of the main frame facing away from the outer door panel and

thus is not positioned between the outer door panel and an element comprised of a main frame and chassis part, as recited in claim 11. Hence, *Morrcarini et al.* has disclosed a different type of structure than that recited in claim 11, and it is submitted that claim 11 distinguishes patentably thereover.

Furthermore, dependent claim 3 recites that the chassis includes a lower opening portion that opens downwardly (e.g., see the opening 13a of the disclosed preferred embodiment), and that a connecting member (e.g., harness 16) for connecting the electrical component to the circuit extends through the lower opening portion. In contrast, *Morrcarini et al.* discloses a horizontal connector 19 which presumably enters a horizontally facing opening in order to be connected to the circuit. Again, the structure of *Morrcarini et al.* differs from that claimed.

Dependent claim 4 recites a chassis structure wherein a case portion extends upwardly from the main frame, and a cover portion which covers an outer opening of the case portion (e.g., see the cover portion 15 which covers the outer opening of a case portion 14 in the disclosed preferred embodiment). Such a structure is not disclosed by *Morrcarini et al.*

New independent claim 12 is similar to claim 11, but further recites that the second portion of the element (i.e., the case portion 14 in the disclosed preferred embodiment) extends upwardly from the main frame, whereby the inner space of the chassis is disposed above the main frame.

Morrcarini et al. does not disclose or teach such a structure.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in
condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 23, 2004

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The amended sheet of drawings replaces the original sheet containing Fig. 5 and amends Fig. 5 by:

- extending the lead lines for numerals 12 and 13
- extending the lead line for numeral 14 and deleting the arrowhead

therefrom.